

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A apparatus for verifying the authenticity of information communicated between a first communication device and a second communication device via a communication network is disclosed. The invention provides for and verifies 5 the authenticity of the communicated information by calculating a checksum of the transmitted information while encrypting the same. The encrypted checksum is convolved with the content of the information intended to be transmitted (document data), thus producing convolved data. The convolved data is transmitted by said first communication device via a communication 10 network to the second communication device. The second communication device is configured to decrypt the encrypted checksum and compute a checksum of the data/document received by such second communications device. Decrypted checksum data is compared with the checksum computed by the second communications device to verify the authenticity of the 15 data/document received by the second communication device. In the event of a mismatch, a recipient at the second communications device is alerted that the received data/document has been tampered with. A recipient may also receive documents or data as an e-mail attachment which may be viewed using appropriate software configured to display such data or documents.